



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***ASTRAGALUS CONVALLARIUS* VAR *CONVALLARIUS*** **LESSER RUSHY MILKVETCH**

Lesser Rushy Milkvetch is a slender perennial with 1-6 erect to spreading stems, rising up to 50 cm high from a branching, underground rootcrown. The compound or simple leaves are 2-11 cm long with 0-5 pairs of thread-like leaflets. Leaflets of the upper leaves are usually lacking, giving them a grass-like appearance. Foliage is sparsely hairy to glabrous in the upper portion. Off-white or yellowish, pea-like flowers are sparsely scattered on stalks that are 2-14 cm long and arise from the axils of the upper leaves. The upper petal of each flower is 7-11 mm long and bent upward. The calyx is 4-6 mm long and sparsely covered with white or black hairs. Slender, pendent, green or purple-mottled fruit pods are 13-50 mm long, and 2-4 mm wide. Flowering from June-early July, fruiting in late June-early August.

A. *CONVALLARIUS* VAR *CONVALLARIUS* is the only milkvetch in our area with both grass like leaves and pendent, linear fruit pods.